

SECRET

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Rumania

SUBJECT Treatment of Rumanian Political Prisoners

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1. Political prisoners held for investigation or trial receive harsher treatment than those who have been sentenced. Those who have not been tried are not permitted to receive gifts of clothing or food from their relatives or news from their families. Prisoners are frequently held one year in solitary confinement without news of relatives.
2. Prisons are overcrowded with political prisoners. In many instances prisoners are forced to sleep on the floor of their cells. In those prisons where bunks are furnished they are erected in tiers of three or jammed together on the floor. Each metal or wooden bunk is occupied by two prisoners, who are not permitted to use mattresses or cover. Cells are unheated and the prisoners suffer from vermin despite obligatory fumigation of clothing. All cells are swept once a day in the morning. Heads of all prisoners are shaved and a weekly bath is compulsory, but soap and towels are not furnished.
3. Inmates of military prisons are supplied half the daily food ration of a common soldier. Prisoners in other institutions are given two meals a day, consisting of a stew of greens with beans or potatoes occasionally added, and 400 grams of moldy corn meal. In contrast to common criminals, who may receive five kilograms of food every fortnight from their relatives, political prisoners are permitted to receive only three kilograms, without sugar or sweets, in the same period.
4. In some of the prisons in the neighborhood of Bucharest political prisoners are not allowed to exercise in the open. Those confined in the basement of the Ministry of Interior often go for months without seeing natural light. Prisoners are habitually subjected to rough treatment by their guards who are members of the Rumanian Workers Party and have been trained for this assignment.

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